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## **The Corporation of The City of London November 16, 2007**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **City of London and Bell Canada Unveil Public Art Project**

The City of London and Bell Canada today announced The Bell Public Art Project, unveiling the first of two murals, painted on Bell's Outside Plant Interface (OPI) utility boxes in the city of London.

The murals, one located beside the former site of the downtown London Public Library at 283 Queens Avenue and the other behind Banting House National Historic Site at Queens Avenue just east of Adelaide Street, were painted by local artist Andrew Gillett. Gillett was the successful candidate chosen from a strong contingent of entrants following a call for artist submissions this fall by the London Arts Council through the London Arts Portal [www.londonarts.ca](http://www.londonarts.ca).

The Bell Public Art Project is part of the City of London's evolving Graffiti Management Strategy, an initiative aimed at using murals to discourage vandals from defacing public and private property.

"The City is currently exploring a number of different methods and partnerships to help contain and then significantly reduce the amount of graffiti that is found on our infrastructure, buildings and bridges," notes London Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best. "The initiative with Bell clearly illustrates the synergies that are possible when a committed corporation steps forward with members of the community to make a difference."

Based on the success and impression that the first two murals on Bell OPI utility boxes make in London, other comparable initiatives will be explored during the winter for possible implementation in spring 2008.

"At Bell, we believe being an outstanding corporate citizen is about investing in the communities we serve. The Bell Public Art Project brings together many elements that we care deeply about as a company - our youth, our city, our communities and our neighbourhoods - and this project demonstrates that care in a very tangible way," said Renato Discenza, Senior Vice President, Bell Canada.

